

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:freedom-of-information-rexxxxx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx)

Our Ref: VTR 4110

23 Oct 2014

Dear Mr Harris

Thank you for your request of 29 September 2014 in which you asked:

*I refer to remarks attributed to Iain Duncan Smith reported in the Daily Express dated Friday, September 26, 2014 and visible at <http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/515700/Iain-Duncan-Smith-breaking-up-Shameless-housing-estates>*

*He is reported to have said (in part) "We're not just getting people back to work, we're making real inroads into that stubborn part of the out-of-work group who are in housing estates and unwilling to work."*

*Please supply the evidence relied on by Iain Duncan Smith when making those remarks. In particular, please provide:*

- The numbers in the out-of-work group who are in housing estates and unwilling to work during 2010 and for all subsequent years for which statistics are available*
- The method used to identify claimants as "unwilling to work"*

According to the Department's most recent Labour Market Statistics, the number of claimants on Jobseekers Allowance is down half a million since the election, the number on out of work benefits is 800,000 lower since the election, and the number of children in workless households is at its lowest since records began, having fallen by 290,000 since the election.

During his work as both a constituency MP and Secretary of State of the Department, the Secretary of State will have seen for himself the impact of these falls, and has subsequently reflected on this during his interview.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Fol Team

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### **Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)